

Morocco's Crisis

To the N. Y. Herald Tribune:

In reading your editorial "The Moroccan Question" (Aug. 26) I'm sorry to see the usually well informed Herald Tribune has swallowed the French bait hook, line and sinker. In doing so it follows a depressing if not tragic American trend of unerringly misjudging Oriental problems.

The line the French have sold us includes the assumption that there was a civil war in Morocco with Berbers on one side and Arabs on the other. Even if this were true it would hardly be democratic to impose the Berber choice on an antagonistic majority. This, however, is not the case. As any one familiar with Moroccan affairs knows, Berbers and Arabs are at one on the matter of nationalism: both groups overwhelmingly supported their Sultan. (The top leader of the nationalist movement, Abdelkrim, was himself a Berber.)

There was no civil war in Morocco. The trouble was that the entire population wanted greater autonomy from France and their leader, Sultan Sidi Mohamed, made the mistake of sympathizing with these aspirations. For this the French have deposed him and replaced him with their puppet.

America's decision to support France in her suppression of nationalism in Morocco is but a further step in our practice of alienating Eastern peoples.

T. A. VOTICHENKO,
Lt. Cmdr. U. S. N. R. Formerly
with North African Division
of the Office of Strategic Services.
Princeton, N. J., Sept. 7, 1953.

CPYRGHT